COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS is intended to provide quick updates on issues of interest to members and affiliates of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU). It is produced regularly throughout the academic year. This issue covers the months of July, August, September and October 2006.

Bill Davis to be honoured with COU Lifetime Achievement Award

The Honourable William G. Davis, former Premier of Ontario, will be honoured by COU with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his vision and leadership in advancing postsecondary education in the province and for his pivotal role as architect of the establishment of the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology in Ontario. The inaugural award will be presented to Mr. Davis at a dinner to be held in Toronto on December 7, 2006, with invited guests including family members, business and community leaders, and current and past senior representatives from the government, colleges and universities.

As the province's first and longest-serving minister responsible for colleges and universities, Mr. Davis championed the legislation that ultimately established the colleges as publicly funded Crown corporations of the province, with the mandate "to meet the relevant needs of all adults within a community, at all socio-economic levels, of all kinds of interests and aptitudes and at all stages of education achievement." Forty-one years later, Ontario's colleges have evolved into 21 Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology and three Institutes of Technology and Advanced Learning. During his tenure, Mr. Davis also created several new universities, including Lakehead University, University of Ottawa and York University, and established the TVOntario Educational Television Network.

Minister, DM of Training, Colleges and Universities meet with Executive Heads

On September 29, 2006, Minister Chris Bentley and Deputy Minister Philip Steenkamp, along with Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities representatives Janet Mason, Rob Esselment and Martha Murray, joined the Executive Heads of Ontario universities at their annual fall retreat. Discussion centred on the *Reaching Higher* investment including the high level of success with access and its implications for funding for quality, the need for increased federal investment, graduate expansion and the impact of the province's pension solvency funding requirements on university budgets.

10th annual Ontario Universities' Fair boasts high-attendance numbers

The 10th annual Ontario Universities' Fair, held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre from September 29 to October 1, was attended by close to 90,000 visitors. All of Ontario's universities as well as the Ontario College of Art & Design and the Royal Military College of Canada were represented at the free-admission event. Each university hosted an exhibition booth staffed by professors, students, and admissions and student services representatives, who were on hand to answer questions about admissions policies, academic programs and campus life. Universities also held information sessions and handed out large quantities of take-away materials. The fair is the Toronto leg of the province-wide University Information Program organized by the Standing Committee on Secondary School Liaison. A group of volunteers from the liaison community co-ordinated the event.

Jack Lightstone assumes presidency of Brock University

On July 1, 2006, Jack N. Lightstone assumed the role of President and Vice-Chancellor of Brock University, in addition to his appointment as Professor of History in Brock's Faculty of Humanities.

Prior to joining Brock, Dr. Lightstone spent 30 years at Concordia University in Montreal. A longtime Professor of Religion at Concordia, he chaired the department from 1979 to 1985 and served as Graduate Program Director for the MA in Judaic Studies and PhD in Religion. From 1989 to 1992, he served as Associate Vice-Rector, Academic (Research). He was Provost and Vice-Rector from 1995 to 2004, and led the academic sector through an extensive, ongoing academic planning process and a difficult period of budget restrictions.

Dr. Lightstone received his BA from Carleton University, and his MA and PhD from Brown University in Rhode Island. He was a Visiting Research Graduate Fellow at Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1974-75. An expert on ancient and contemporary North American Judaism, Dr. Lightstone has written and lectured extensively, and remains an active scholar funded by external peer-reviewed grants.

Dr. Lightstone was officially installed on October 20, 2006. He succeeds Dr. Terry Boak, who served as Acting President for one year.

Ron Bordessa takes office as President of UOIT

Ronald Bordessa took office as President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) on July 1, 2006. Prior to joining UOIT, he served as Vice-President, Academic, and Provost at Royal Roads University in Victoria, B.C.

Dr. Bordessa's postsecondary career began at York University's Atkinson College, where he taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in the Department of Geography. The next 30 years he spent in service to York in progressively responsible academic administrative positions that included Program Co-ordinator, Urban Studies; Chair of Geography and Social Work; and Associate Dean and Dean of Atkinson College, renamed Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies.

Dr. Bordessa was a Visiting Professor of Geography at the University of Western Australia in Perth and at Helsinki University in Finland, and continues to hold the position and title of Docent at the University of Joensuu in Finland. He has published nationally and internationally, and his research interests include the social life in urban areas, literary studies and environmental issues.

Born in Wales, Dr. Bordessa received his BA in Geography from the University of Wales at Swansea and a PhD in Geography from Liverpool University.

Dr. Bordessa succeeds Dr. Gary Polonsky, who retired from office. He will be officially installed on November 17, 2006.

Carleton representatives win Teaching with Technology Award

The winners of the fifth annual Award for Excellence in Teaching with Technology were announced at a special luncheon held in Ottawa on October 24, 2006. Dr. Robert Burk, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Chemistry, and Patrick Lyons, Manager of Instructional Innovation at the Educational Development Centre, both from Carleton University, were presented with the 2006 award for their innovative program, *Distance Course Delivery via Video on Demand and Podcasting*.

The award, which has a value of $5,000, was sponsored by IBM Canada, CGI Group and Sun Microsystems of Canada. COU established the awards program to recognize faculty who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in using technology to enhance their teaching.

Council welcomes six new Academic Colleagues

In addition to two new Executive Heads, Council has welcomed six new Academic Colleagues:

- Dr. Mary Louise Hill, Professor, Department of Geography, Lakehead University;
- Dr. Sylvie Albert, Professor, School of Commerce and Administration, Laurentian University;
- Dr. Michael McCabe, Assistant Professor, Mathematics Education and Health and Physical Education, Nipissing University;
- Dr. Brian Campbell, Dean of Graduate Studies, University of Ontario Institute of Technology;
- Dr. Daniel Lang, Professor, Senior Policy Advisor to the President and Co-ordinator of the Program in Higher Education, OISE, University of Toronto; and
- Dr. Mariela Gutiérrez, Professor, Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies, University of Waterloo.

COU publishes update on status of women in Ontario universities

A key resource publication that monitors changes in the participation of female students and faculty at Ontario universities has been updated. The COU report, entitled *Status of Women in Ontario Universities*, provides statistical information that tracks women's participation at all levels within the Ontario university system across a number of important variables, including demographics, student application rates, student enrolment levels, degrees awarded and faculty positions. The 2006 report, which was prepared by COU's Standing Committee on Human Rights, is now available online (www.cou.on.ca).

Federal government and research-granting councils attend OCUR meeting

On September 21, 2006, the Ontario Council on University Research (OCUR), representing the Vice-Presidents, Research or equivalent at Ontario universities, held its general meeting in Ottawa. On hand were Claire Morris, President, Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada; Dr. Peter Nicholson, President and CEO, Council of Canadian Academies; Dr. Eliot Phillipson, President and CEO, Canada Foundation for Innovation; Carole Swan, Senior Associate Deputy Minister, Industry Canada; Dr. Arthur Carty, National Science Advisor; Dr. Janet Halliwell, Executive Vice-President, Social Sciences and Humanities Resource Council (SSHRC); and Dr. Chad Gaffield, incoming SSHRC President.

Membership changes and new initiatives underway at CUCC

On October 2, 2006, the College-University Consortium Council (CUCC) held its first meeting of the Council since Robin L. Armstrong assumed the position of Executive Director. CUCC, which is entering a new heightened phase in its work to encourage and support collaboration between the college and university sectors, will be well-served by Dr. Armstrong's strong leadership experience in Canadian postsecondary education. He served as President of the University of New Brunswick from 1990 to 1996 and, for 21 years before that, in various senior administrative positions at the University of Toronto, where he is Professor Emeritus of Physics. The meeting focused on the Council's research agenda, the Collaborative Nursing Program Evaluation Project, a proposed framework for the grant from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, and the CUCC vision and plan.

CUCC was established by the Ontario government to facilitate, promote and co-ordinate joint education and training ventures, and is co-chaired by Ryerson University President Sheldon Levy and Humber College President Robert Gordon. Representatives of COU and the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario have also been added as *ex officio* members of the Council.

COU initiative underway to help internationally educated professionals

A COU initiative is underway to identify and test measures for Ontario universities to help internationally educated professionals gain both registration and employment in their fields at levels appropriate to their skills and experience. Consultations conducted by COU in late 2005 had identified barriers that immigrants with international education face, and as a result, a series of pilot projects was recommended to increase access to Ontario universities, with a focus on the regulated professions. The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration has since approved these projects:

- Developing a data collection system on internationally educated professionals applying to Ontario universities;
- Improving the flow of information to internationally educated professionals about Ontario universities before they immigrate to Canada and upon arrival through the development of a "one window model" for specific professions;
- Developing a more centralized set of services and supports for credentials recognition;
- Expanding professional language training and services to orient specific sectors or professions; and
- Developing an ongoing system to address not only the needs of internationally educated professionals but also the role and opportunities for Ontario universities.

For more information, contact Rifky Rosensweig (416-598-5927 or rrosensweig@cou.on.ca).

2004-05 compendium to financial reports now available

COU recently published its annual *Compendium of Statistical and Financial Information*. The report is a companion piece to the three-volume annual publication, *Financial Report of Ontario Universities*, which is prepared annually by the Council of Finance Officers-Universities of Ontario (COFO-UO) from submissions from each of Ontario's publicly assisted universities and federated and affiliated colleges. The 2004-05 edition of the compendium contains supplementary information on Ontario universities that helps put the COFO-UO data in context and facilitates interpretation of the financial reports. For a copy of the compendium report, visit COU's web site (www.cou.on.ca).

Fifth edition of *Success Stories* published and searchable online

This past summer, the Ontario Council on University Research published its fifth edition of research success stories (published annually since 2002 under the title *A Sampling of Success Stories*). The latest edition offers 89 profiles of research, discovery and innovation that reflect the combined efforts of faculty, staff and students across Ontario universities and that are funded by the federal and provincial governments, various research-granting agencies, foundations and private-sector partners. Each story has also been added to the searchable database of *Success Stories* on COU's home page (www.cou.on.ca).

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